

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH EMPOWERMENT & ADVOCACY DIVISION

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NATIONAL

- President Obama has proposed new mental health legislation, \$10 million for training peer professionals, the first time funding for this has ever been proposed. Other mental health legislation, with strong bipartisan support, is SB 689 to fund education on helping people in crisis and SB 264 to create "federally qualified behavioral health centers."
- Launched by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, **Mentalhealth.Gov** is an online resource for people looking for information about mental health. SAMHSA will release *Toolkit for Community Conversations About Mental Health* to support communities interested in holding discussions on mental health topics. The Information Brief section is available now for print and electronic download. The goals are: to get Americans talking about mental health to break down misperceptions; to find innovative community-based solutions to mental health needs, and to develop clear action steps that complement existing local activities.

CALIFORNIA

- Governor Jerry Brown and legislative Democrats reached a budget agreement for fiscal year 2013 -2014 that includes increased spending on health and human services. The agreement calls for \$206 million to improve mental health care services, including \$142 million in one-time general fund money in the coming fiscal year.
- Disability Rights California (800) 776-5746 just released a new publication (#5523.01). The paper discusses employment supports/work incentive programs available to SSI recipients who work. It is addressed directly to the SSI recipient and covers summary information on Countable Income, Calculating Your SSI Payment Amount, Medi-Cal Coverage, and the expedited reinstatement (EXR) provision of the Ticket to Work Program. For more information contact www.disabilityrightsca.org.

